



PRESS RELEASE

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

by the Office of LA County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

LA County Board drops water surcharges in the AV

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to suspend the County's emergency water conservation program as a result of the State's response to improved water supply conditions, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich announced today. The emergency program went into effect in June 2015, establishing stringent water use targets for individual customers and assessing surcharges for those who exceeded their allocation.

"Over the past year, the Antelope Valley has achieved some of the highest rates of water use reduction in the state," Supervisor Antonovich said. "While water conservation remains a way of life here in Southern California, today's repeal of customer surcharges will bring welcome relief just in time for the arid months of summer."

The County will continue its promotion of water conservation through public education, rebates and smart water metering systems for customers of the County Waterworks Districts, Antonovich said. The state's prohibitions on wasteful water practices, like hosing off driveways, overwatering lawns and washing automobiles without hoses regulated by shutoff nozzles, are now permanent.

The Board's decision was prompted by a recent change in the State Water Resources Control Board's regulations for urban water suppliers, which now allow local water agencies to assess and determine their own ability to meet customer demand according to standards specified by the State. The State refers to this approach as a localized "stress test" that ensures at least a three year supply of water to water agency customers under drought conditions.

"Drought conditions are far from over, but have improved enough that we can step back from our unprecedented top-down target setting," said State Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus in a press release. "We've moved to a 'show us the water' approach, that allows local agencies to demonstrate that they are prepared for three more lousy water years. This reporting will show us what agencies plan to do, and how they do, throughout the year. Trust, but verify. In the meantime, we'll be watching and prepared to come back with the 25 percent state mandate early next year if necessary, which we hope it won't be."

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